

PALACE THEATRE

WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA



Grand Civic Night

Thursday, June 4th, 1936

THE FAMOUS

O'Mara Grand Opera Company

Under the direction of Tom Rowland

present Gounod's...

“FAUST”

AT 8 p.m

Graciously Attended By

*His Worship The Mayor
and Mayoress*

(Councillor Alec Hemsley White and Mrs. White)

Supported by Members of the Council

Programme and Story of the Opera - Price Threepence

THE FAMOUS
O'Mara Grand Opera
Company

Touring since 1912. Re-organised 1933.
Under the direction of Tom Rowland.

GOUNOD'S
"FAUST"

Marguerite Doris Walker
Siebel Ella Mayne
Martha Elsie Lynham
Wagner Alfred James
Valentine Tom Rowland
Mephistopheles Gilbert Field
Faust Myrddyn Watcyn

ACT I.

Scene 1.—Faust's Study.
Scene 2.—A Public Square.

ACT II.

Marguerite's Garden.

ACT III.

A Street.

ACT IV.

The Prison.

Cars at 10.45 p.m.

FAUST

By GOUNOD

Scene : Nuremberg. Period : 16th Century.

First Produced in Paris, March, 1859

Faust, an aged scholar, invites the Powers of Evil to aid him in discovering the Elixir of Life. Mephistopheles, Prince of Darkness, comes and shows Faust a vision of Marguerite, the belle of Nuremberg. Mephistopheles offers to restore Faust's lost youth, and to arrange a meeting with Marguerite. For this Faust agrees to surrender his soul to Mephistopheles. Instantly, Faust is transformed into a handsome cavalier. In the Market Place Mephistopheles mingles with the soldiers and joins in their wine and songs. Mephistopheles drinks the health of Marguerite, thereby offending her brother, Valentine. Valentine draws his sword but his arm becomes powerless. The crowd recognises the presence of Evil. They discomfit Mephistopheles by holding aloft their sword handles as crosses.

Later, in Marguerite's garden, Siebel, a simple youth in love with Marguerite, plucks a flower. It instantly withers. Mephistopheles has cast a spell. Siebel dips his hand in holy water and the spell is broken. He gathers a bouquet and leaves it for Marguerite. Faust and Mephistopheles enter the garden. Seeing the bouquet Mephistopheles contemptuously casts it away and puts a casket of jewels in its stead. Valentine has been called to war and has left Marguerite in charge of her old nurse, Martha. Martha finds Marguerite engaged in bedecking herself with jewels. Mephistopheles make love to Martha, who, if old, is amorous. Martha's pre-occupation gives Faust his opportunity to make love to Marguerite. In the gathering twilight Mephistopheles evades Martha and casts a spell on the garden. Faust clasps Marguerite in his arms. Mephistopheles laughs mockingly at the sight.

Later, Marguerite prays for forgiveness, but is haunted by the Spirit of Evil, whom at length she thinks she sees. The army returning from the war are welcomed by the townsfolk. When they have passed, Valentine goes to Marguerite's house. Siebel tries to prevent him, but is thrust aside. Presently comes Faust and Mephistopheles. Faust has deserted her; but remorseful, would see her again. Valentine challenges Faust, who kills him. As Valentine dies he curses Marguerite for having caused his death.

Marguerite lies in prison, condemned to death. Faust comes and tries to induce her to escape with him, but her mind is unyielding and she fancies she is back in her own garden. Suddenly she sees Mephistopheles, and falling on her knees, prays with passionate earnestness. Faust tries to force her from the prison, but she falls dead. Mephistopheles claims Faust, but a tableau shows Marguerite being carried heavenwards by angels.

REMAINING OPERAS

FRIDAY, JUNE 5th at 8 p.m.

MASCAGNI'S "CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA"
LEONCAVALLO'S "I PAGLIACCI"

SATURDAY, JUNE 6th at 8 p.m.

BALFE'S "THE BOHEMIAN GIRL"



TOM ROWLAND

(Proprietor and Principal Baritone)

O'MARA GRAND OPERA COMPANY

PRINCIPALS INCLUDE:

MYRDDYN WATCYN

GASTON THOMAS

BARBARA PLUMMER

DORIS WALKER

FREDERIC CLENDON

GILBERT FIELD

ELLA MAYNE

ELSIE LYNHAM

MUSICAL DIRECTOR: RENE GASNIER

LEADER: MADAM RHODA SIMPSON

STAGE DIRECTOR: GEORGE RHODES

LIBRARIAN: ISLYN KENDRICK